

BLUEPRINTS PREFACE

STAR PROGRAM CALIFORNIA STANDARDS TESTS

SCIENCE

These are the STAR California Standards Test blueprints for science. It should be noted that the following important changes or additions have been made to the 2003 blueprints.

- A clear distinction has been made between the content statement that precedes each set of standards, i.e., *1. The periodic table displays the elements in increasing atomic number and shows how periodicity of the physical and chemical properties of the elements relates to atomic structure.* and the actual standard *a. Students know how to relate the position of an element in the periodic table to its atomic number and atomic mass.* The blueprints have been revised to clearly indicate with ✓ marks the standards assessed.
- On some blueprints there are standards that, while important, are not assessable in a multiple-choice format. These standards have been clearly identified with the notation N/A*. However, this does not suggest that these standards should not be taught. In order for students to have a full understanding of the subject matter to be tested, all of the standards must be covered in instruction, as comprehension of certain tested standards assumes an understanding of standards that may not be assessable within the format of the California Standards Tests.
- The “Previous Blueprint” column shows the standards tested and number of multiple-choice questions included in the science CSTs before 2003. The “2003 Revised Blueprint” column shows the standards tested and number of multiple-choice questions included on these CSTs.
- Some tests have 66 items that include the regular 60 items plus 6 embedded field test items.

At the high school level, science is assessed by discipline rather than grade level. Blueprints are provided for the discipline-specific tests-biology, chemistry, earth science, and physics and for the integrated science tests-Integrated 1, Integrated 2, Integrated 3, and Integrated 4.

- On October 9, 2002, the State Board of Education (SBE) adopted the revised STAR integrated science blueprints replacing the former integrated science blueprints (BCP, EBC, EBP, and ECP). Thus, the 2003 tests will be based on the revised blueprints.
- Revisions have been made to the number of items assessed per strand on the discipline-specific blueprints for biology, chemistry, and Earth science though no revisions were made to the physics blueprint.
- Beginning with the 2003 test administration, standards that all students *should have the opportunity to learn*, identified with an asterisk (*), will not be assessed on the California Standards Tests for science though they are important to the comprehension of each standard set.

At the elementary level, science will be assessed at grade 5. A blueprint is provided for this California Standards Test.

- The grade 5 test covers grade 4 and 5 science content standards and will be administered as a field test in the spring of 2003 with the operational test to follow in 2004.
- The tests will assess approximately 40% grade 4 standards and 60% grade 5 standards.
- As with the high school level tests, Investigation and Experimentation standards comprise 10% of the test items.